53. (New) The method according to claim 52, wherein the ligand binding domain comprises a functional sequence of amino acids selected from the amino acids of SEQ ID. NO. 1 (Figure 1).

54. (New) The method according to claim 51, wherein the soluble LT-β-R further comprises one or more heterologous protein domains.

55. (New) The method according to claim 54, wherein the heterologous protein domain is selected from the group consisting of immunoglobulins, serum albumin, lipoproteins, apolipoproteins and transferrin.

56. (New) The method according to claim 51, wherein the soluble LT-β-R comprises a human immunoglobulin Fc domain.

57. (New) The method according to claims 51-56, wherein the humoral immune response is inhibited.

58. (New) The method according to claims 51-56, wherein the animal is a mammal.

59. (New) The method according to claims 51-56, wherein the animal is a human.

60. (New) The method of claims 51-56 further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or adjuvant.

61. (New) A method for altering the humoral immune response in an animal comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of an antibody directed against lymphotoxin-β receptor (LT-β-R).

62. (New) The method according to claim 61, wherein the antibody comprises a monoclonal antibody against LT-β-R.

63. (New) The method according to claim 61, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is administered in an amount sufficient to coat LT-β-R -positive cells for about 1 to about 14 days.

64. (New) The method according to claim 61, wherein the antibody directed against LT-β-R comprises anti-human LT-β-R mAb BDA8 which is produced by hybridoma cell line BD.A8.AB9 (ATCC Accession No. HB11798).

65. (New) A method for altering the humoral immune response in an animal comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of an antibody directed against surface LT ligand.

66. (New) The method according to claim 65, wherein the antibody directed against surface LT ligand comprises a monoclonal antibody directed against surface LT ligand.

67. (New) The method according to claim 65, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is administered in an amount sufficient to coat surface LT ligand-positive cells for 1 to 14 days.

68. (New) The method according to claim 65, wherein the antibody is directed against a subunit of the LT ligand.

69. (New) The method according to claim 66, wherein the monoclonal antibody directed against surface LT ligand comprises anti-human LT-β mAb B9 which is produced by hybridoma cell line B9.C9.1 (ATCC Accession No. HB11962).

70. (New) The method according to claim 65, wherein the antibody directed against surface LT ligand comprises a monoclonal antibody directed against a murine surface LT ligand.

71. (New) A method for inhibiting lymphotoxin-β receptor (LT-β-R) signaling without inhibiting TNF-R signaling comprising the step of administering to a subject an effective amount of a soluble LT-β-R.

72. (New) The method according to claim 71 wherein the subject comprises one or more cells from a mammal.

73. (New) The method according to claim 72 wherein the mammal is a human.

74. (New) The method according to claim 71, wherein the soluble lymphotoxin-β receptor comprises a ligand binding domain that can selectively bind to a surface LT ligand.

75. (New) The method according to claim 71, wherein the ligand binding domain comprises a functional sequence of amino acids selected from the amino acids of SEQ ID. NO. 1 (Figure 1).

76. (New) The method according to claim 71, wherein the soluble lymphotoxin-β receptor further comprises one or more heterologous protein domains.

77. (New) The method according to claim 76, wherein the heterologous protein domain is selected from the group consisting of immunoglobulins, serum albumin, lipoproteins, apolipoproteins and transferrin.

78. (New) The method according to claim 71, wherein the soluble lymphotoxin-β receptor further comprises a human immunoglobulin Fc domain.

79. (New) A method for inhibiting lymphotoxin-β receptor (LT-β-R) signaling without inhibiting TNF-R signaling comprising the step of administering to a subject an effective amount of an antibody directed against LT-β-R.

80. (New) The method according to claim 79, wherein the antibody comprises a monoclonal antibody directed against LT-β-R.

81. (New) The method according to claim 79, wherein the antibody directed against LT-β-R comprises anti-human LT-β-R mAb BDA8 which is produced by hybridoma cell line BD.A8.AB9 (ATCC Accession No. HB11798).

82. (New) A method for inhibiting lymphotoxin-β receptor (LT-β-R) signaling without inhibiting TNF-R signaling comprising the step of administering to a subject an effective amount of an antibody directed against surface LT ligand.

83. (New) The method according to claim 82, wherein the antibody directed against surface LT ligand comprises a monoclonal antibody directed against surface LT ligand.

84. (New) A method for altering the association of immune complexes and B cell follicles in a patient comprising administering an amount of a soluble LT-β-R to said patient.

85. (New) The method according to claim 84, wherein the soluble LT-β-R comprises a ligand binding domain that can selectively bind to a surface LT ligand.

86. (New) The method according to claim 85, wherein the ligand binding domain comprises a functional sequence of amino acids selected from the amino acids of SEQ ID. NO. 1 (Figure 1).

87. (New) The method according to claim 84, wherein the soluble LT-β-R further comprises one or more heterologous protein domains.

88. (New) The method according to claim 87, wherein the heterologous protein domain is selected from the group consisting of immunoglobulins, serum albumin, lipoproteins, apolipoproteins and transferrin.

89. (New) The method according to claim 84, wherein the soluble LT-β-R further comprises a human immunoglobulin Fc domain.

90. (New) The method of claims 84-89 further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or adjuvant.

91. (New) A method for altering the association of immune complexes and B cell follicles in a patient comprising administering an amount of an antibody directed against lymphotoxin-β receptor (LT-β-R) to said patient.

92. (New) The method according to claim 91 wherein the antibody comprises a monoclonal antibody directed against LT-β receptor.

93. (New) The method according to claim 91, wherein the antibody directed against LT-β-R comprises anti-human LT-β-R mAb BDA8 which is produced by hybridoma cell line BD.A8.AB9 (ATCC Accession No. HB11798).

Claims Provided in Accordance with § 1.121

51. A method for altering the humoral immune response in an animal comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a soluble lymphotoxin-β receptor (LT-βR).

52. The method according to claim 51, wherein the soluble LT-β-R comprises a ligand binding domain that can selectively bind to a surface LT ligand.

53. The method according to claim 52, wherein the ligand binding domain comprises a functional sequence of amino acids selected from the amino acids of SEQ ID. NO. 1 (Figure 1).

54. The method according to claim 51, wherein the soluble LT-β-R further comprises one or more heterologous protein domains.

55. The method according to claim 54, wherein the heterologous protein domain is selected from the group consisting of immunoglobulins, serum albumin, lipoproteins, apolipoproteins and transferrin.

56. The method according to claim 51, wherein the soluble LT-β-R comprises a human immunoglobulin Fc domain.

57. The method according to claims 51-56, wherein the humoral immune response is inhibited.

58. The method according to claims 51-56, wherein the animal is a mammal.

59. The method according to claims 51-56, wherein the animal is a human.

60. The method of claims 51-56 further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or adjuvant.

61. A method for altering the humoral immune response in an animal comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of an antibody directed against lymphotoxin-β receptor (LT-β-R).

62. The method according to claim 61, wherein the antibody comprises a monoclonal antibody against LT-β-R.

63. The method according to claim 61, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is administered in an amount sufficient to coat LT-β-R -positive cells for about 1 to about 14 days.

64. The method according to claim 61, wherein the antibody directed against LT-β-R comprises anti-human LT-β-R mAb BDA8 which is produced by hybridoma cell line BD.A8.AB9 (ATCC Accession No. HB11798).

65. A method for altering the humoral immune response in an animal comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of an antibody directed against surface LT ligand.

66. The method according to claim 65, wherein the antibody directed against surface LT ligand comprises a monoclonal antibody directed against surface LT ligand.

67. The method according to claim 65, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is administered in an amount sufficient to coat surface LT ligand-positive cells for 1 to 14 days.

68. The method according to claim 65, wherein the antibody is directed against a subunit of the LT ligand.

69. The method according to claim 66, wherein the monoclonal antibody directed against surface LT ligand comprises anti-human LT-β mAb B9 which is produced by hybridoma cell line B9.C9.1 (ATCC Accession No. HB11962).

70. The method according to claim 65, wherein the antibody directed against surface LT ligand comprises a monoclonal antibody directed against a murine surface LT ligand.

71. A method for inhibiting lymphotoxin-β receptor (LT-β-R) signaling without inhibiting TNF-R signaling comprising the step of administering to a subject an effective amount of a soluble LT-β-R.

72. The method according to claim 71 wherein the subject comprises one or more cells from a mammal.

73. The method according to claim 72 wherein the mammal is a human.

74. The method according to claim 71, wherein the soluble lymphotoxin-β receptor comprises a ligand binding domain that can selectively bind to a surface LT ligand.

75. The method according to claim 71, wherein the ligand binding domain comprises a functional sequence of amino acids selected from the amino acids of SEQ ID. NO. 1 (Figure 1).

76. The method according to claim 71, wherein the soluble lymphotoxin-β receptor further comprises one or more heterologous protein domains.

77. The method according to claim 76, wherein the heterologous protein domain is selected from the group consisting of immunoglobulins, serum albumin, lipoproteins, apolipoproteins and transferrin.

78. The method according to claim 71, wherein the soluble lymphotoxin-β receptor further comprises a human immunoglobulin Fc domain.

79. A method for inhibiting lymphotoxin-β receptor (LT-β-R) signaling without inhibiting TNF-R signaling comprising the step of administering to a subject an effective amount of an antibody directed against LT-β-R.

80. The method according to claim 79, wherein the antibody comprises a monoclonal antibody directed against LT-β-R.

81. The method according to claim 79, wherein the antibody directed against LT-β-R comprises anti-human LT-β-R mAb BDA8 which is produced by hybridoma cell line BD.A8.AB9 (ATCC Accession No. HB11798).

82. A method for inhibiting lymphotoxin-β receptor (LT-β-R) signaling without inhibiting TNF-R signaling comprising the step of administering to a subject an effective amount of an antibody directed against surface LT ligand.

83. The method according to claim 82, wherein the antibody directed against surface LT ligand comprises a monoclonal antibody directed against surface LT ligand.

84. A method for altering the association of immune complexes and B cell follicles in a patient comprising administering an amount of a soluble LT-β-R to said patient.

85. The method according to claim 84, wherein the soluble LT-β-R comprises a ligand binding domain that can selectively bind to a surface LT ligand.

86. The method according to claim 85, wherein the ligand binding domain comprises a functional sequence of amino acids selected from the amino acids of SEQ ID. NO. 1 (Figure 1).

87. The method according to claim 84, wherein the soluble LT-β-R further comprises one or more heterologous protein domains.

88. The method according to claim 87, wherein the heterologous protein domain is selected from the group consisting of immunoglobulins, serum albumin, lipoproteins, apolipoproteins and transferrin.

89. The method according to claim 84, wherein the soluble LT-β-R further comprises a human immunoglobulin Fc domain.

90. The method of claims 84-89 further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or adjuvant.

91. A method for altering the association of immune complexes and B cell follicles in a patient comprising administering an amount of an antibody directed against lymphotoxin-β receptor (LT-β-R) to said patient.

92. The method according to claim 91 wherein the antibody comprises a monoclonal antibody directed against LT-β receptor.

93. The method according to claim 91, wherein the antibody directed against LT-β-R comprises anti-human LT-β-R mAb BDA8 which is produced by hybridoma cell line BD.A8.AB9 (ATCC Accession No. HB11798).

94. A method for altering the association of immune complexes and B cell follicles in a patient comprising administering an amount of an antibody directed against surface LT ligand. .